

ABSTRACT

A spinal construct and method for implantation is provided which utilizes a spinal implant adapted for insertion within an intervertebral space between an adjacent pair of vertebral bodies, and an elongate member adapted for anchoring to the adjacent vertebral bodies. The spinal implant defines a first transverse dimension and a different second transverse dimension, and is initially inserted into the intervertebral space while in a first operational configuration wherein the first transverse dimension extends along the height of the intervertebral space. The elongate member is anchored to the vertebral bodies to establish and maintain a select height of the intervertebral space. The spinal implant is then rotated to a second operational configuration wherein the second transverse dimension extends along the height of the intervertebral space. The elongate member serves to maintain the select height of the intervertebral space to provide a controlled amount of compression onto the spinal implant and/or a bone growth promoting material contained therein. The elongate member also serves to resist tensile loads during extensional movement of the vertebral bodies to maintain the vertebral endplates in intimate contact with the spinal implant.